

MEMO

DATE: August 30, 2007

TO: Energy and Environment Committee

FROM: Jennifer Brost Sarnecki, Senior Regional Planner; sarnecki@scag.ca.gov, (213) 236-1829

SUBJECT: Regional Comprehensive Plan Goals, Outcomes and Action Plans for Air Quality, Water, and Solid Waste

BACKGROUND:

The pending update to the Regional Comprehensive Plan (RCP) will lay out a vision for how Southern California can achieve sustainability in nine areas of policy, including Transportation, Land Use and Housing, Water, Air Quality, Solid Waste, Energy, Open Space, Economy, and Security and Emergency Preparedness.

Based on the RCP's Vision and Guiding Principles that were reviewed by the CEHD on July 12, 2007, staff has developed draft recommendations for the Air Quality, Water, and Solid Waste chapters for the Committee's review and comment. The EEC reviewed initial recommendations for the Solid Waste chapter in November 2006, while the Air Quality and Water chapters were reviewed in December 2006. The RCP Task Force subsequently approved refinements to these recommendations in June and July 2007.

The Goals represent an idealized vision of a sustainable future for each resource area. The Outcomes are desired outcomes that measure our progress towards sustainability goals and ideally are quantifiable and trackable over time. The Action Plan represents the implementation strategy that identifies recommended roles and responsibilities to meet the recommended Outcomes and achieve the desired Goals.

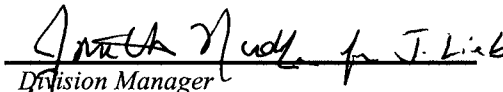
Attachments:

1. RCP Air Quality Chapter – Draft Goals and Outcomes
2. RCP Water Chapter – Draft Goals and Outcomes
3. RCP Solid Waste Chapter – Draft Goals and Outcomes

FISCAL IMPACT:

Activities related to the Regional Comprehensive Plan are contained in the OWP under the work element 08-035.SCGS1.

Reviewed by:


Division Manager

Reviewed by:


Department Director

Reviewed by:


Chief Financial Officer

RCP Air Quality Chapter

Draft Goals, Outcomes and Action Plan

Goals

- Reduce emissions of criteria pollutants to help attain federal air quality standards by prescribed dates and state ambient air quality standards as soon as practicable.
- Reverse current trends in greenhouse gas emissions to support sustainability goals for energy, water supply, agriculture, and other resource areas.
- Minimize land uses that increase risk of adverse air pollution-related health impacts from exposure to toxic air contaminants, particulates (PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, ultrafine), and carbon monoxide.
- Expand green building practices to reduce energy-related emissions from development.

Outcomes

- Attain the federal 8-hour ozone standard by the dates specified in the 2007 AQMPs for the respective non-attainment areas:
 - South Coast Air Basin by 2024
 - Coachella Valley by 2019
 - Antelope Valley and Western Mojave Desert by 2019 or 2021 (to be determined by ARB by fall 2007)
 - Ventura County by 2013 or 2017 (to be determined by ARB by fall 2007)
 - Imperial County by 2007
- Attain the federal PM_{2.5} standards in the South Coast Air Basin by 2015 as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
- Reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
- Amend local government General Plans to restrict future growth of residences and other sensitive receptors near major sources of toxic air contaminants and other hazardous air pollutants (e.g., freeways, railyards, and industrial facilities).

- All cities in the region adopt green building standards by 2012.

ACTION PLAN

Constrained Actions

AQ-1. Implement control measures from local Air Quality Management Plans (AQMPs)

- AQ-1.1** SCAG shall ensure that transportation plans, programs, and projects are consistent with State air quality plans for attaining and maintaining the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).
- AQ-1.2** SCAG shall ensure compliance with the Transportation Conformity Rule, which include the new air quality standards for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and 8-hour Ozone.
- AQ-1.3** SCAG shall ensure that there is continued development of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs) in the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB).
- AQ-1.4** Local governments should accelerate turnover of older, more polluting mobile and stationary source equipment.

AQ-2. Identify new SIP control strategies that reduce the amount of undefined emission reductions necessary to reach attainment.

- AQ-2.1** SCAG shall coordinate with U.S. EPA, the California Air Resources Board, local air districts, and other stakeholders to develop consensus on how to identify discrete control measures that replace the undefined reductions in attainment plans.

AQ-3. Support and pursue environmentally sustainable strategies that implement and complement climate change goals and outcomes.

- AQ-3.1** SCAG will develop policies that support the greenhouse gas emissions targets set forth in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), which requires a reduction in global warming emissions to 1990 levels by 2020.
- AQ-3.2** SCAG will participate in the development of rules to implement ARB's three Group 1 "discrete early action greenhouse gas reduction measures." These include the proposed Low Carbon Fuel Standard, reduction of refrigerant losses from motor vehicle air conditioning maintenance, and increased methane capture from landfills.
- AQ-3.3** SCAG will participate in the development of ARB's twenty Group 2, non-regulatory activities and greenhouse gas regulations that will be enforceable after January 1, 2010, including electrification, phase two vehicle standards, and more refrigerant controls.

- AQ-3.4** SCAG will participate in the development of ARB's ten Group 3 "traditional control measures" that aimed to reduce criteria and toxic air pollutants which have concurrent climate co-benefits.
- AQ-3.5** Local governments should update their General Plans to address the requirements of AB 32. This should include an inventory of 1990 emissions of greenhouse gases and a strategy for reducing 2020 emissions to those levels.
- AQ-3.6** SCAG will provide assistance to local governments on how to address climate change issues in General Plan updates.

AQ-4. Develop policies that discourage the location of sensitive receptors that expose humans to adverse air quality impacts.

- AQ-4.1** SCAG shall assist local governments develop policies that minimize exposure of sensitive receptors and sites (e.g. schools, hospitals, and residences) to major sources of air pollution, including diesel particulate matter emissions, such high-traffic freeways and roads, rail yards, ports, and industrial facilities.
- AQ-4.2** Local governments should amend General Plans, zoning ordinances, business licensing, and related land use permitting processes to minimize human health impacts from exposure of sensitive receptors to local sources of air pollution. Jurisdictions should consider applicable guidance documents, such as CARB's *Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective* and the South Coast AQMD's *Guidance Document for Addressing Air Quality Issues in General Plans and Local Planning*.

AQ-5. Practice and promote sustainable building practices.

- AQ-5.1** SCAG shall disseminate information about energy efficiency and green building programs and energy use reduction, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Energy Star Program, the Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) Equipment Exchange Program, and U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED Program through the SCAG web site, web links to other programs, and educational workshops and presentations.
- AQ-5.2** SCAG shall adopt a policy to strive for carbon neutrality for its own facilities and operations.
- AQ-5.3** Local governments should adopt policies that strive for carbon neutrality for their own facilities and operations.
- AQ-5.4** SCAG shall utilize its IGR process to recommend utilization of green building practices as potential mitigation measures.
- AQ-5.5** SCAG, shall engage both private and public sectors to assist local government in the creation of green business certification program for businesses that want to reduce energy usage.
- AQ-5.6** In updating their General Plans and/or zoning ordinances, local governments should encourage the use of green building practices, which include

incorporating LEED design standards and utilizing energy efficient, recycled-content and locally harvested or procured materials.

- AQ-5.7** Local governments should develop incentive programs (e.g. density bonuses) to encourage green building and resource and energy conservation in development practices.

Strategic Initiatives

- AQ-S-1 SCAG shall work with federal, state, and local stakeholders to identify long-term innovative strategies that can achieve significant emissions reductions from the transportation system, including transformative goods movement strategies.**

RCP Water Chapter

Draft Goals, Outcomes and Action Plan

Goals

- Develop sufficient water supplies through environmentally sustainable imports, local conservation and conjunctive use, reclamation and reuse to meet the water demands created by continuing regional growth.
- Achieve water quality improvements through implementation of land use and transportation policies and programs that promote water stewardship and eliminate water impairments and waste in the region.
- Foster comprehensive and collaborative watershed planning within the region that produces waterwise programs and projects with multiple benefits and ecosystem protections, integrating local government planning efforts with those of special districts, environmental advocates and other watershed stakeholders.

Outcomes

- Reduce regional water demand through waterwise land use and local policies that reduce existing per capita water consumption by 25% in 2030.
- Reduce overall stormwater and urban runoff pollution in the region's waterways and water bodies by eliminating all current 303(d) listings by 2030.
- All SCAG member agencies participate in the planning and implementation of integrated watershed management activities throughout the region.

ACTION PLAN

Constrained Actions

WA-1. SCAG shall encourage increasing overall water supplies in the region to support the region's future growth by:

- Securing sustainable and reliable water imports.

- Supporting local projects to recycle and reclaim treated wastewater for irrigation and other outdoor uses.
- Supporting research on new technologies.
- WA-1.1** SCAG shall encourage patterns of urban development and land use that reduce costs on infrastructure construction and make better use of existing facilities.
- WA-1.2** SCAG shall encourage local governments and water purveyors to consider potential climate change hydrology and create systems to manage water for reliable year-around use, and for ecosystem health (storage/balance with fisheries requirement).
- WA-1.3** SCAG shall promote a water conservation ethic throughout the region, featuring the connections between water and energy and between system capacities and timing of water use.
- WA-1.4** SCAG shall encourage local governments and water purveyors to reduce exterior uses of water with the promotion of native landscape plantings and weather-based irrigation systems, supported by water pricing incentives.
- WA-1.5** SCAG shall promote the creation of stable sources of funding for water and environmental stewardship and related infrastructure sustainability (legislative program should support a dedicated revenue source such as (Constitutional Amendment ACA 13 which allows cities to levy stormwater management fees).
- WA-1.6** SCAG shall support the protection and development of vital resources such as wetlands, groundwater recharge areas, woodlands, riparian corridors, production lands, and land containing unique and endangered plants and animals.
- WA-1.7** SCAG shall encourage water reclamation throughout the region where it is cost-effective, feasible, and appropriate to reduce reliance on imported water and wastewater discharges.
- WA-1.8** SCAG shall encourage local jurisdictions in the adoption of plans and policies that require water wise development within jurisdictional boundaries.
- WA-1.9** SCAG shall support local jurisdictions in the development of plans and policies to redesign/ retrofit existing development and land use to reduce water demand and water pollution. Support the research/ creation of best practices, case studies, and model ordinances for this purpose.
- WA-1.10** SCAG shall support the use of funding and market incentive mechanisms to encourage water wise planning and development, including streamlining/ prioritizing projects that minimize water impacts and water demand.
- WA-1.11** SCAG shall support water providers in developing and implementing tiered pricing structures to discourage unnecessary use and waste of water.

WA-2. Encourage new partnerships, low impact developments and natural spaces that reduce, treat, infiltrate and manage runoff.

- WA-2.1** SCAG shall encourage limiting salts and other contaminants in the region's water in order to reclaim and reuse these water supplies cost-effectively. (imports from Colorado River are increasing in salinity, blending of Colorado River water and Northern California water could assist, treatment of agricultural runoff should be encouraged).
- WA-2.2** SCAG shall encourage the development of comprehensive partnership approaches to remove legacy water impairments rather than today's regulatory command and control approach causing conflict, cost and delay.
- WA-2.3** SCAG shall encourage new low impact developments and natural spaces that reduce, treat, infiltrate and manage runoff caused by storms and impervious surfaces.
- WA-2.4** SCAG shall encourage the minimization of flooding risks in alluvial fan areas of the region.
- WA-2.5** SCAG shall encourage designing and operation of regional transportation facilities that prevent runoff from contaminating the surrounding watershed ecosystem.
- WA-2.6** SCAG shall encourage opportunities for pollution reduction marketing and other market-incentive water quality programs as an alternative to strict command and control regulation.
- WA-2.7** SCAG shall ensure that the planning and development of wastewater treatment facilities be consistent with its most recent population projections. SCAG shall take into account the needs of wastewater treatment agencies, including: building treatment facilities in cost-effective increments of capacity, building well enough in advance to reliably meet unanticipated service and stormwater demands, and providing standby capacity for public safety and environmental protection objectives.
- WA-2.8** SCAG shall encourage the cleanup of contamination in the region's major groundwater aquifers since its water supply is critical to the long-term economic and environmental health of the region. The financing of such cleanups should leverage state and federal resources and minimize significant impacts to the local economy.
- WA-2.9** SCAG shall encourage wastewater treatment plants to have expansion plans, approvals, and financing in place once their facilities reach 80 percent of capacity.

WA-3. Encourage coordination, cooperation, and integrated planning between member agencies and local governments.

- WA-3.1** SCAG shall encourage coordinated watershed management planning at the sub-regional level by (1) providing consistent regional data; (2) serving as a liaison between affected local, state, and federal watershed

management agencies; and (3) ensuring that watershed planning is consistent with other planning objectives (e.g. transportation, air quality, water supply).

- WA-3.2** SCAG shall facilitate information sharing between local water agencies and local jurisdictions, regarding continuing efforts to evaluate future water demands and establish the necessary supply and infrastructure, as documented in their Urban Water Management Plans.
- WA-3.3** SCAG shall facilitate information-sharing about water policy-related regional coordination throughout California and the Colorado River basin that develops and supports sustainable growth policies.
- WA-3.4** SCAG shall involve the region's water supply agencies in planning efforts, in order to make water resource information available to local jurisdictions for use in their land use planning and decisions. Such information includes water supply, water quality, location of recharge areas and groundwater, and other useful information.
- WA-3.5** SCAG shall support the adoption of MOUs and JPAs by local agencies establishing participation in the governance of integrated watershed planning and implementation.
- WA-3.6** SCAG shall encourage the integration of all water stewardship practices within watershed governance frameworks that unify investment incentives among all stakeholders and prioritize resources for those investments with the highest returns and best outcomes.
- WA-3.7** SCAG shall encourage watershed management programs and strategies, recognizing the primary role of local governments in such efforts.
- WA-3.8** SCAG shall provide, as appropriate, legislative support and advocacy of regional water conservation, supply, and water quality projects.
- WA-3.9** SCAG supports only the use of the best available technology including monitoring, air, and water impacts for locating any nuclear waste facility.

RCP Solid Waste Chapter

Draft Goals, Outcomes and Action Plan

Goals

- A Zero Waste¹ region that conserves our natural resources, reduces our reliance on landfills, and creates new economic opportunities in the most environmentally responsible manner possible.

Outcomes

- All SCAG region jurisdictions should meet a 30% waste disposal rate by 2035 to minimize landfilling.
- Conversion technologies should be available as a diversion strategy in the next five years with one or more new conversion technology facilities sited in the SCAG region by 2035.

Action Plan

Constrained Actions

SW 1. Develop and support waste prevention and reduction practices.

SW 1.01. SCAG shall encourage all levels of government to advocate for source reduction and waste prevention.

SW 1.02. SCAG shall discourage the siting of new landfills unless all other waste reduction and prevention actions have been fully explored.

SW 1.03. SCAG shall discourage exporting of locally generated waste outside of the SCAG region. Disposal within the county of waste origin shall be encouraged as much as possible.

SW 1.04. SCAG shall encourage the use of green technologies, such as clean locomotives for waste-by-rail systems, for long-distance transport of waste when all local disposal alternatives have been exhausted.

SW 1.05. SCAG shall support the ongoing statewide effort to quantify the full life costs of local government waste diversion programs.

¹ Zero Waste does not assume that 100% of waste is ultimately diverted from landfills. Rather, it is a whole system approach that aims to completely change the way materials flow through society with a goal of no waste being generated.

SW 1.06. Local governments should continue to adopt and refine programs to comply with state solid waste diversion rate mandates and, where possible, encourage further actions to exceed these rates (1996 RCP; 187).

SW 1.07. Local governments should update general plans to reflect solid waste sustainability issues such as waste reduction goals and programs.

SW 1.08. CIWMB should continue enforcing solid waste diversion mandates that are enacted by the Legislature (1996 RCP; 186).

SW 1.09. CIWMB should increase waste diversion incentives to promote waste diversion past the current 50% diversion mandate of AB939.

SW 1.10. Federal, State, and local governments should provide programmatic incentives, including some financing or loan options, for implementation of preferred projects.

SW 1.11. Federal, State and Local jurisdictions should continue to develop zero waste initiatives that support policies promoting product stewardship and extended producer responsibility principles aimed at preventing waste.

SW 1.12. Federal and State governments should explore financial incentives such as tax credits, subsidies, and price supports for recycling, composting, and conversion technologies.

SW 1.13. Federal, State, and local governments should explore opportunities for voluntary actions to exceed the 50% waste diversion target.

SW 2. Develop a stable recycling market for the region.

SW 2.01. SCAG shall encourage policies promoting the expansion of recycling programs and facilities that provide local recycling services to the public and private sectors.

SW 2.02. SCAG shall encourage and advocate for legislative approaches to help market recyclables through cost-effective financial support.

SW 2.03. SCAG shall encourage the development of viable, local, and sustainable markets to divert materials from landfills (e.g., recycling markets).

SW 2.04. SCAG shall encourage the adoption and implementation of green building policies at all levels of government.

SW 2.05. Local governments should create ordinances that require green building standards be met for all new construction. This will encourage the use and re-use of recycled, discarded, or demolished building materials; discourage the use of virgin material whenever possible; and help divert useful resources away from landfills.

SW 2.06. Local governments should require the inclusion of a waste management plan that promote maximum reuse and recycling of construction and demolition debris in construction contracts.

SW 2.07. Local governments should develop ordinances that require recycling and waste prevention efforts at all large events and venues (as defined in AB 2176).

SW 2.08. SCAG shall adopt and implement “green” procurement policies and participate in programs that promote the purchase of recycled content products, such as the State Agency Buy Recycled (SABRC) campaign.

SW 2.09. SCAG shall encourage local governments to develop procurement policies that define minimum recycled content guidelines and require the purchase of recycled content products.

SW 2.10. The State should implement AB 75 which requires all State Agencies to implement a recycled content procurement program known as the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign (SABRC).

SW 2.11. The Federal government should enact legislation that require federal government agencies or agencies receiving federal funds to institute a recycled content procurement program, favoring the purchase of recycled products over products produced with virgin materials.

SW 2.12. Federal, State, and local governments should support and promote CIWMB actions that assist in the development of viable, sustainable markets and stimulate local, national, and international markets for recycled commodities, such as CIWMB's Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program that provides loans and technical assistance to businesses located in a specific zone that use materials from the waste stream to manufacture their products.

SW 3. Support environmentally friendly alternative waste management strategies such as composting and conversion technologies.

SW 3.01. SCAG shall support and encourage the development and siting of environmentally friendly conversion technologies.

SW 3.02. SCAG shall encourage the CIWMB to promote life cycle assessments of conversion technologies.

SW 3.03. SCAG shall support and encourage CIWMB, Air Resources Board, California Water Resources Board and other state legislative administrative actions to streamline the permitting process for solid waste conversion and composting technologies and to address increasing regulatory challenges relative to siting, air quality, and odor issues.

SW 3.04. SCAG shall continue to support and encourage legislation redefining conversion technologies as a diversion strategy and the development of these facilities in Southern California.

SW 3.05. Local governments should require public facilities that produce large amounts of food waste, such as school cafeterias, and encourage private businesses, such as restaurants and grocery stores to divert food waste to composting facilities.

SW 3.06. Local governments should develop ordinances to divert food waste from large events and venues to composting facilities after all food waste prevention and foodbank

SW 3.07. CIWMB should actively promote solid waste composting and solid waste strategies and provide information concerning the costs and benefits of these technologies to local governments.

SW 3.08. CIWMB should take administrative action to streamline the permitting process for solid waste transformation technologies.

- SW 3.09.** The State should establish policies that provide (a) diversion credit for beneficial use of post-recycled solid waste residuals managed at non-burn conversion technology facilities, and (b) separate and remove conversion technologies from the definition of "transformation."
- SW 3.10.** The State should establish policies that provide financial support and/or tax incentives for the development of pilot or demonstration solid waste conversion technologies.
- SW 3.11.** The Federal government should establish a definition that conversion of residual solid waste material is considered diversion.
- SW 3.12.** Federal, State, and local governments should support federal and state incentives for research and demonstration projects for solid waste conversion technologies.

SW 4. Coordinate regional approaches and strategic siting of waste management facilities.

- SW 4.01.** SCAG shall advocate for the elimination of unnecessary duplication and/or restrictive regulations that hinder recycling, reuse, composting and conversion of solid waste.
- SW 4.02.** SCAG shall encourage and support consensus building among key stakeholders and members of the public to promote zero waste strategies and conversion technologies.
- SW 4.03.** SCAG should coordinate region-wide source reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, and conversion technology initiatives to increase economies of scale.
- SW 4.04.** CIWMB should facilitate and encourage local government coordination of consumer awareness programs to minimize unnecessary duplication of effort in solid waste outreach programs carried out by local government.
- SW 4.05.** SCAG should encourage the distribution of industrial impacts from all types of solid waste management facilities including recycling, composting, and conversion technology facilities.
- SW 4.06.** Local governments should promote siting solid waste conversion and composting technologies, individually or in conjunction with other technologies.
- SW 4.07.** State and local governments should facilitate the creation of synergistic linkages between community businesses such as, the development of eco-industrial parks and materials exchange centers where one entity's waste stream becomes another entity's raw material.
- SW 4.08.** State and local governments should prioritize siting of new waste management facilities including recycling, composting, and conversion technology facilities in conjunction with existing waste management and material recovery facilities.
- SW 4.09.** Federal, State, and local governments should make priority funding available for projects that involve co-location of facilities.

SW 5. Coordinate educational approaches.

SW 5.01. SCAG shall support the development of public education and outreach efforts and increase awareness of the benefits of a regional zero waste policy.

SW 5.02. Local governments should increase programs to educate the public and increase awareness of reuse, recycling, and composting benefits and consumer education issues at the County and City level, as well as at local school districts and education facilities.

SW 5.03. CIWMB should actively promote reuse, recycling, composting and solid waste conversion technology programs and provide information concerning the costs and benefits of these programs to local governments.

SW 5.04. The Federal government should provide funding and support for continuation of public education programs on waste management issues.

Strategic Initiatives

SW S1: Federal and State governments should change incentive structures, from maximizing volume of product sold to deriving profit from resource efficiency.

SW S2: Federal State and local governments should support and implement source reduction policies which promote product stewardship through the following actions:

S2.01: Support and encourage Federal and State legislation that create incentives for product stewardship.

S2.02: Require life cycle assessments (LCA) for different types of packaging.

S2.03: Create ordinances that require producers to provide products with less packaging, more recyclable material content, and less virgin material. Packaging should be easily recyclable or biodegradable.

S2.04: Create incentives for producers to voluntarily produce "sustainable" packaging and products which includes, increasing the useful life of products through durability and reparability; increasing production efficiency to produce less production waste; facilitating material or product reuse; and decreasing of the toxicity of products.

S2.05: Create incentives for packaging manufacturers to design for the environment and support the development of infrastructure and markets for the recycling of their products.

S2.06: Support State programs that offer incentives to those who use recycled content to encourage growth in the recycled contents market.

S2.07: Enact extended producer responsibility (EPR) initiatives for products.

S2.08: Encourage public-private partnerships with product stewardship goals.

S2.09: Require takeout food distributors to utilize packaging that is compatible with recycling and composting options available.

SW S3: Federal and State and local governments should institute “eco-taxes” and EPR initiatives that require companies to internalize environmental damage costs associated with their products. These would include the following actions:

- S3.01:** Identify and alter tax policies that enhance polluting industries and products at the expense of more environmentally benign systems and goods.
- S3.02:** Shift taxes from income and labor (“goods”) to resource depletion, wasting, and polluting activities (“bads”).
- S3.03:** End federal and state subsidies for virgin materials extraction, processing, and manufacturing.
- S3.04:** Add a levy, quota, or ban on one-way beverage containers or require the use of refillable beverage containers only.
- S3.05:** Add a packaging tax with rates based on the environmental impacts of different packaging materials (based on Danish system).
- S3.06:** Require that companies take back certain types of packaging for reuse or recycling.
- S3.07:** Ban construction and demolition materials from landfills.
- S3.08:** Ban Styrofoam and other unrecyclable, plastic fast-food packaging.
- S3.09:** Promote SIS (Service Innovation for Sustainability) – optimization of product use and longevity.